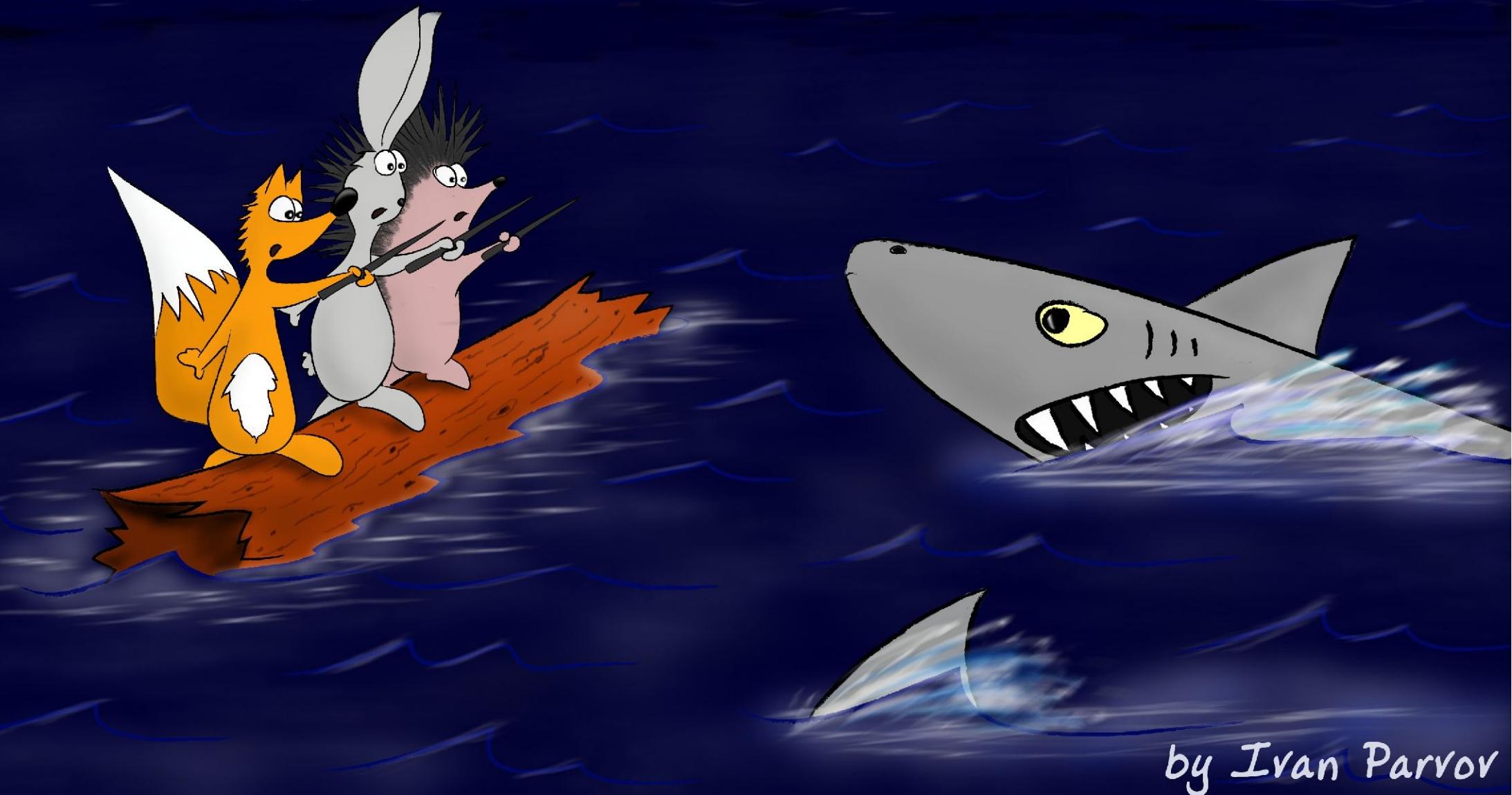


In Open Sea



by Ivan Parrov

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Ivan Parvov, In Open Sea

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www.BubuTales.com

Summer came and Bubu, together with his friends Oskar the rabbit and Rico the hedgehog went to a summer camp at the seaside. They were learning to sail, digging tunnels in the sand, swimming and many other things.

One day while they were building a huge sand castle Bubu noticed something glittering in the sea.





"Treasure!" cried Bubu jumping into the water and swimming as fast as he could. When he came nearby he found that it was only a bottle. Yet he grabbed it with his teeth and swam back to the shore...

Oscar and Rico pulled him out of the water and while Bubu was drying off, Oskar looked over the bottle.

"Hmm...there is something inside!"

Rico pulled up the cork with one of his thorns and pulled out a palm leaf with something written on it. The three friends started reading...



Help!

We shipwrecked on a lonely island.

Our food and water is running out.

The heat is immense.

Please, send us help!

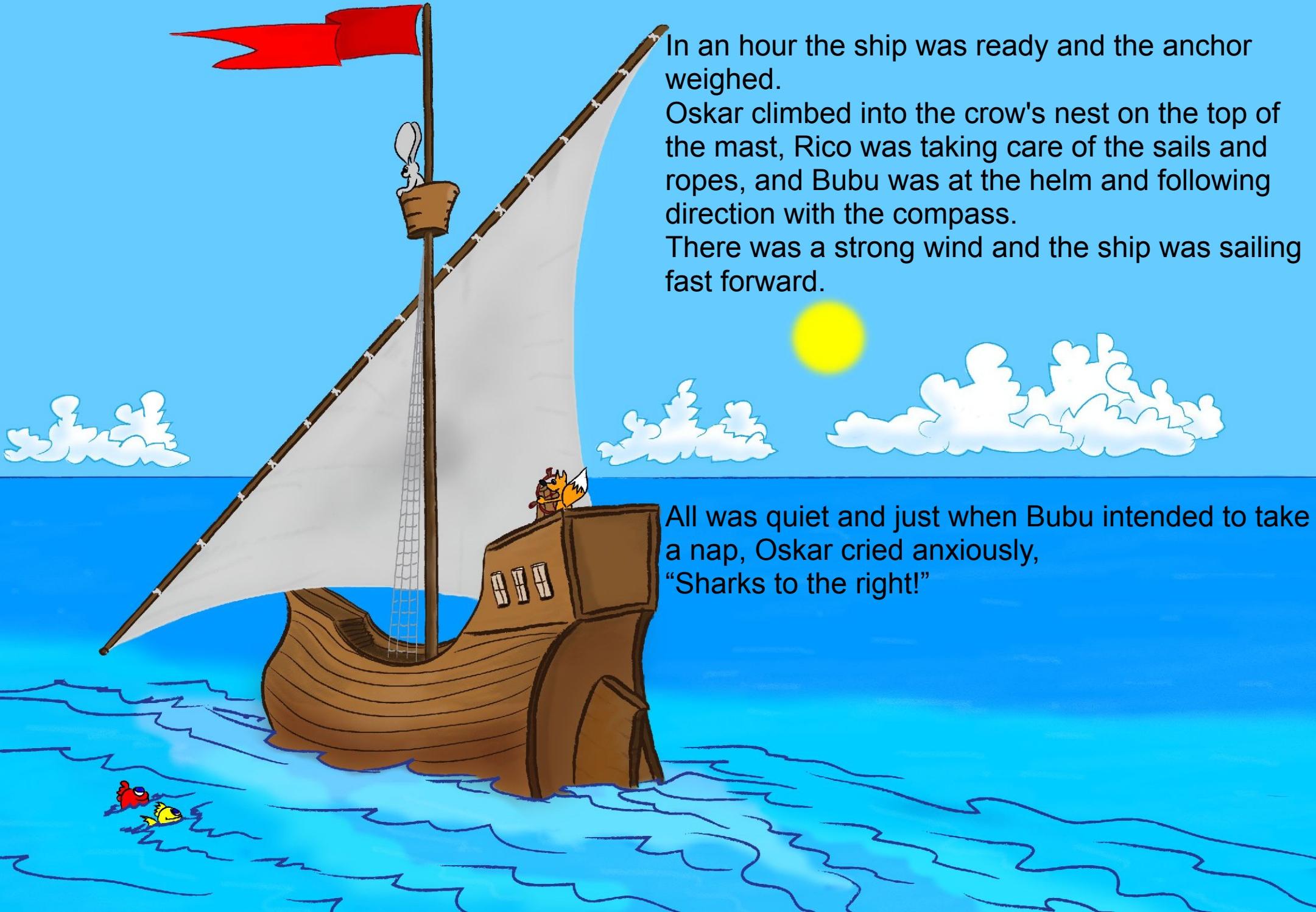


The three friends exchanged glances.

"I will take food and water!" said Rico.

"Then I will prepare the sails!" proposed Oskar.

"And I am going for maps and a compass. Meet you on the ship in one hour!" cried Bubu already running.



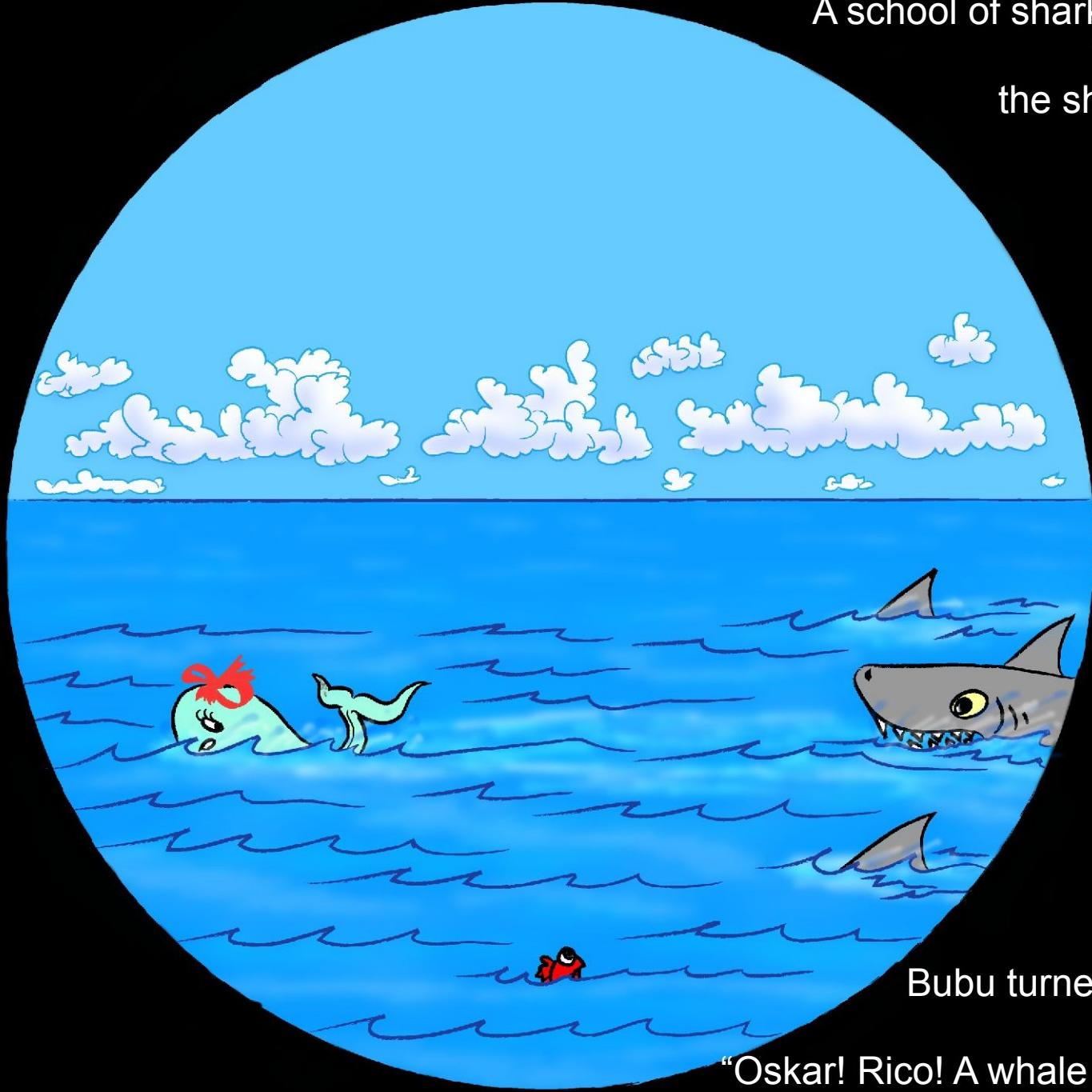
In an hour the ship was ready and the anchor weighed.

Oskar climbed into the crow's nest on the top of the mast, Rico was taking care of the sails and ropes, and Bubu was at the helm and following direction with the compass.

There was a strong wind and the ship was sailing fast forward.

All was quiet and just when Bubu intended to take a nap, Oskar cried anxiously, "Sharks to the right!"

Bubu grabbed the telescope and looked.
A school of sharks was chasing a small whale.
The whale was wounded and
the sharks were already very close.



There was no time to loose.
Bubu turned the helm sharply to the right
and cried,
“Oskar! Rico! A whale in danger! Prepare for battle!”

Oskar climbed down in seconds, shaking with fear.

“Battle? With the fearful sharks? Impossible...”

Rico was also worried.

“I've heard horrible stories about the sharks. It is better to leave them alone. And we are on a rescue mission and have to hurry.”



“I know..but the whale also needs to be rescued. And if we do not help then who will?” asked Bubu.

Oskar exchanged glances with Rico and said, unsure,

“Maybe you are right, Bubu. But how are we going to fight the sharks?”

“I don't know yet, but I will search in the hold. I will be back in a while.“

Bubu quickly got into the hold and looked around.

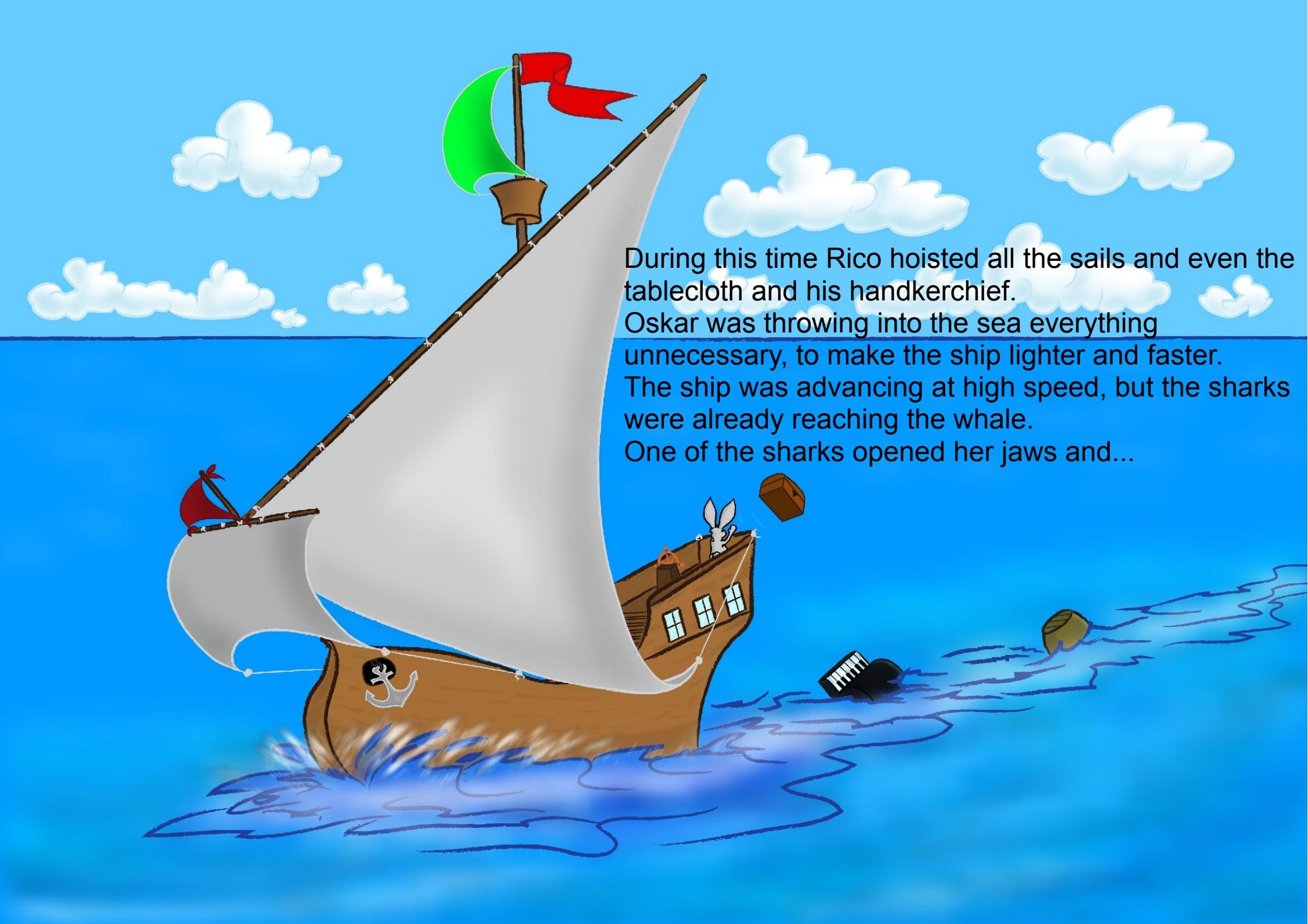
If he could find a fishing net and throw it over the sharks...or maybe a canon...or maybe some of those special whistles which scare the sharks...

But there was no fishing net, or canon, or whistle.

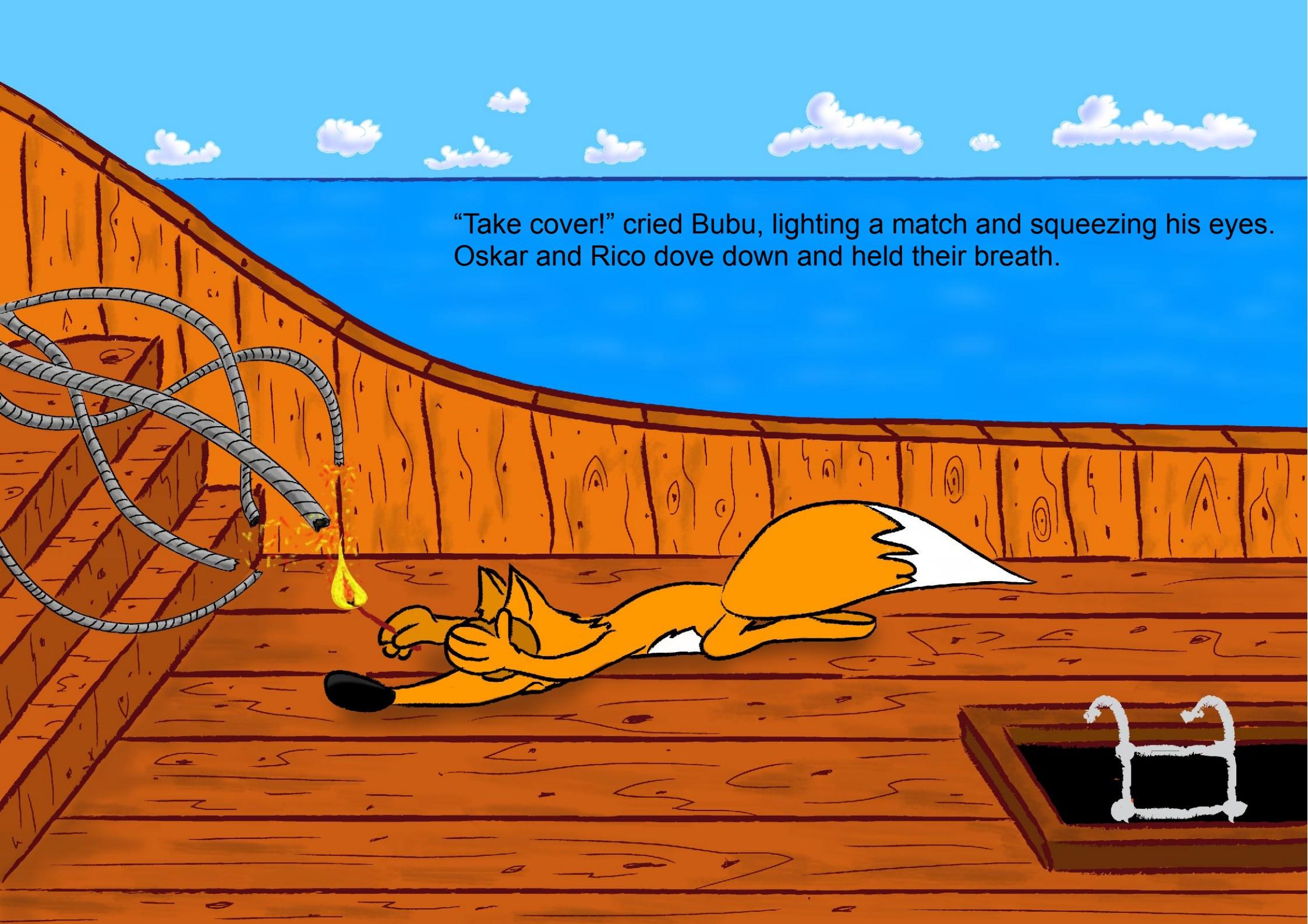
But maybe if... thought Bubu.

Then he grabbed one chest and hurried up to the deck.





During this time Rico hoisted all the sails and even the tablecloth and his handkerchief. Oskar was throwing into the sea everything unnecessary, to make the ship lighter and faster. The ship was advancing at high speed, but the sharks were already reaching the whale. One of the sharks opened her jaws and...



"Take cover!" cried Bubu, lighting a match and squeezing his eyes. Oskar and Rico dove down and held their breath.

Baaaam! Booom! Baaaam!

A dozen fireworks and rockets, left from the New Year celebrations, thundered into the sky. Thick smoke rose from the ship and formed into a huge sea dragon.



Bubu, Oskar and Rico began screaming as loud as they could, although they were not sure how a sea dragon should sound.

The sharks stopped for a moment...and swam away in panic.

The whale was safe! Bubu and Rico bandaged her wounded tail and Oskar brought out the tastiest biscuits from the ship's supplies.

"Thank you boys," said the whale when at last she caught her breath, "if you were not....."

"A piece of cake," said Oskar, "we have coped with much bigger and more fearful creatures."

"Really? But who are you?" asked the whale.

"I am Oskar and this is Bubu and Rico.

And what is your name?"

"Kittie."



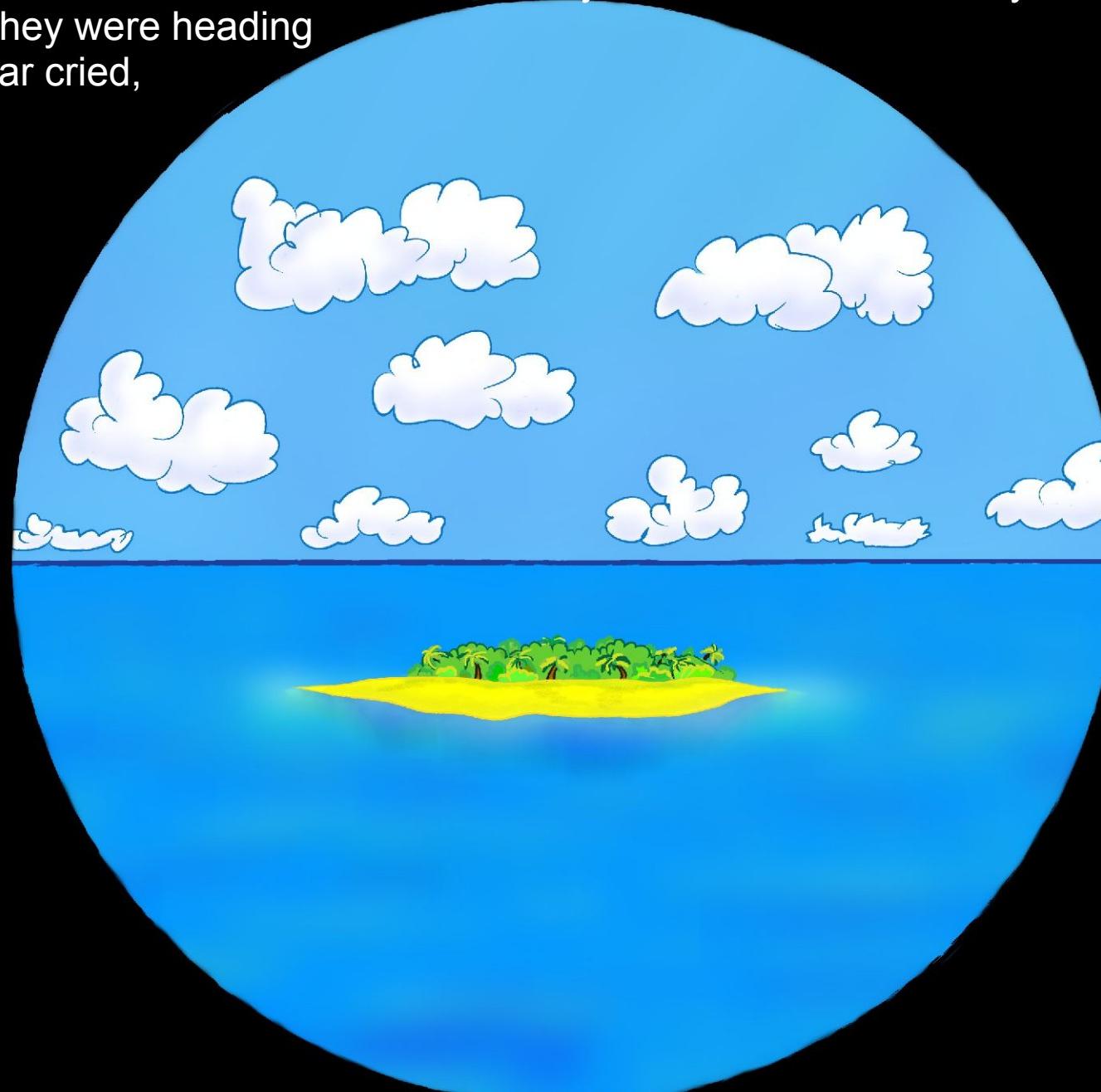
"Come with us Kittie," said Bubu, "we are on a rescue mission and a skilled swimmer like you will be very helpful."

"I would like to come," said Kittie, "but I have to go back home. Mom and Dad are probably already worried."

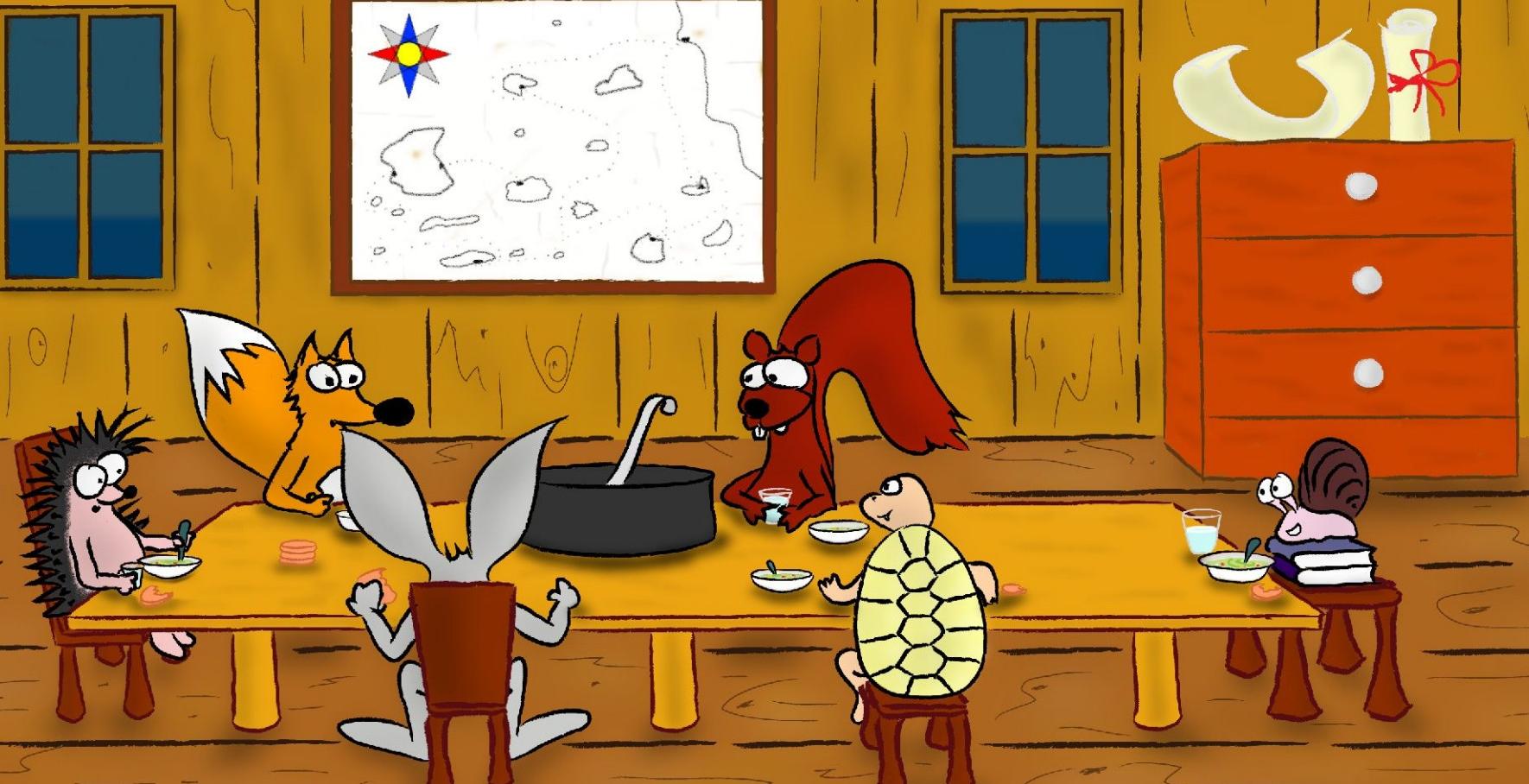
"Pity. Well...we also have to go. Bye Kittie!"

"Bye! And good luck with the mission," Kittie waved her tail.

The three friends lifted the anchor and set sail. They sailed for the whole day and just when Bubu began to worry if they were heading the right way, Oskar cried,
“Land!”



Bubu looked through the telescope and breathed a sigh of relief – someone on the coast was waving desperately.



Soon they dropped the anchor and the happy castaways got on board. They were very hungry and thirsty and Rico prepared a real feast with biscuits and seaweed soup. Everybody wanted to go home as soon as possible and after dinner they set sail.

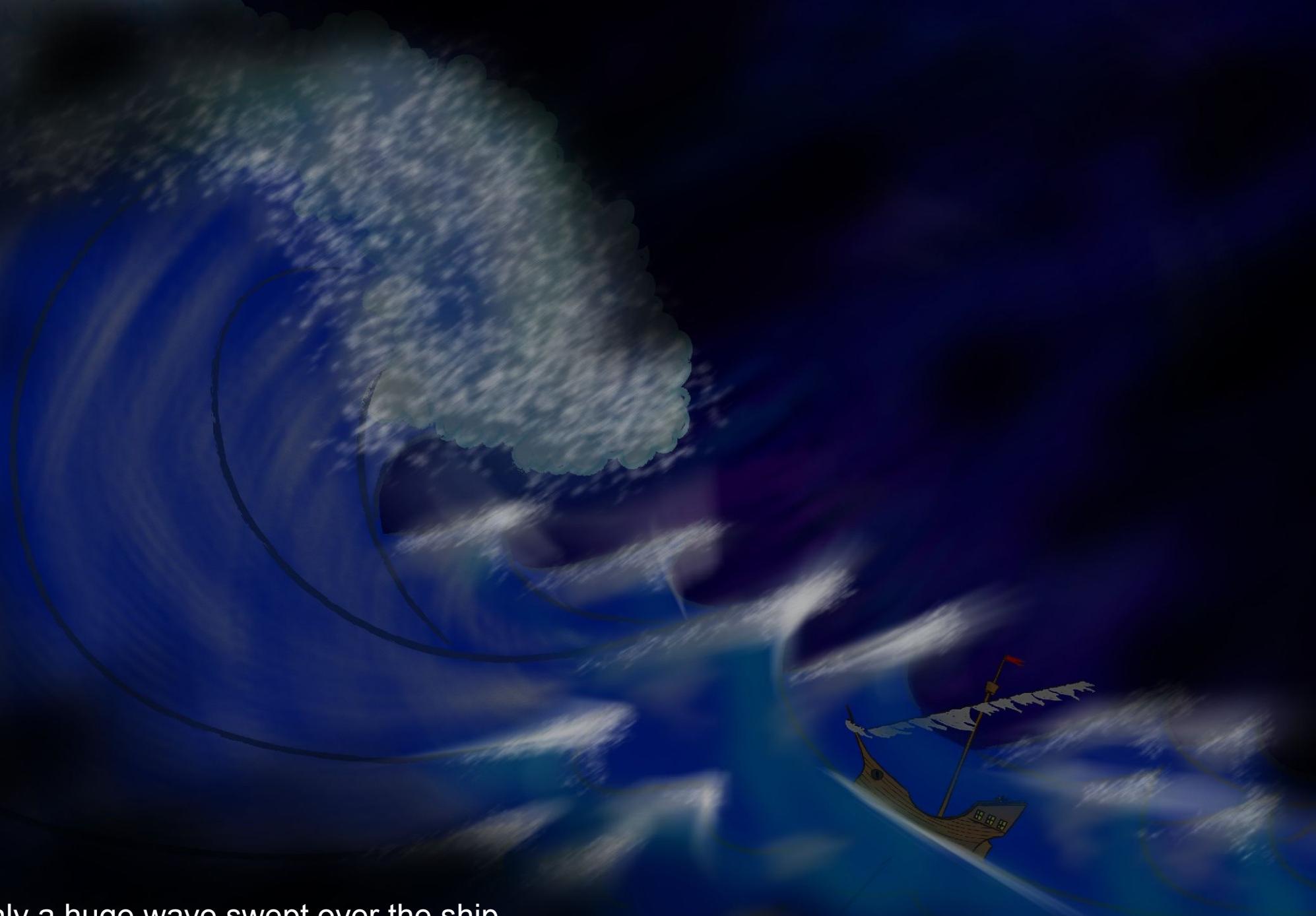


But their homeward voyage would not be so easy. Dark clouds covered the sky and a powerful storm pounced on the ship.

“Hide in the cabin,” cried Bubu while trying to keep the ship upright against the waves.



The storm grew stronger and stronger. The waves were hitting and sweeping over the ship and Bubu left alone on the deck, shivering in the cold could hardly hold the slippery helm.



Suddenly a huge wave swept over the ship.

"Hold on!" cried Bubu clinging to the helm.

The wave crashed onto the deck with terrific power, sweeping away everything in its path and threw Bubu overboard...

Bubu's legs were caught by something and he hung just above the waves.

"Gotcha!" cried Oskar above him. "Hold on! We will pull you out."

But another big wave hit the ship. Water and sea foam filled Bubu's mouth and ears.

"The ship is sinking," he heard someone cry with fear...then he fell unconscious.



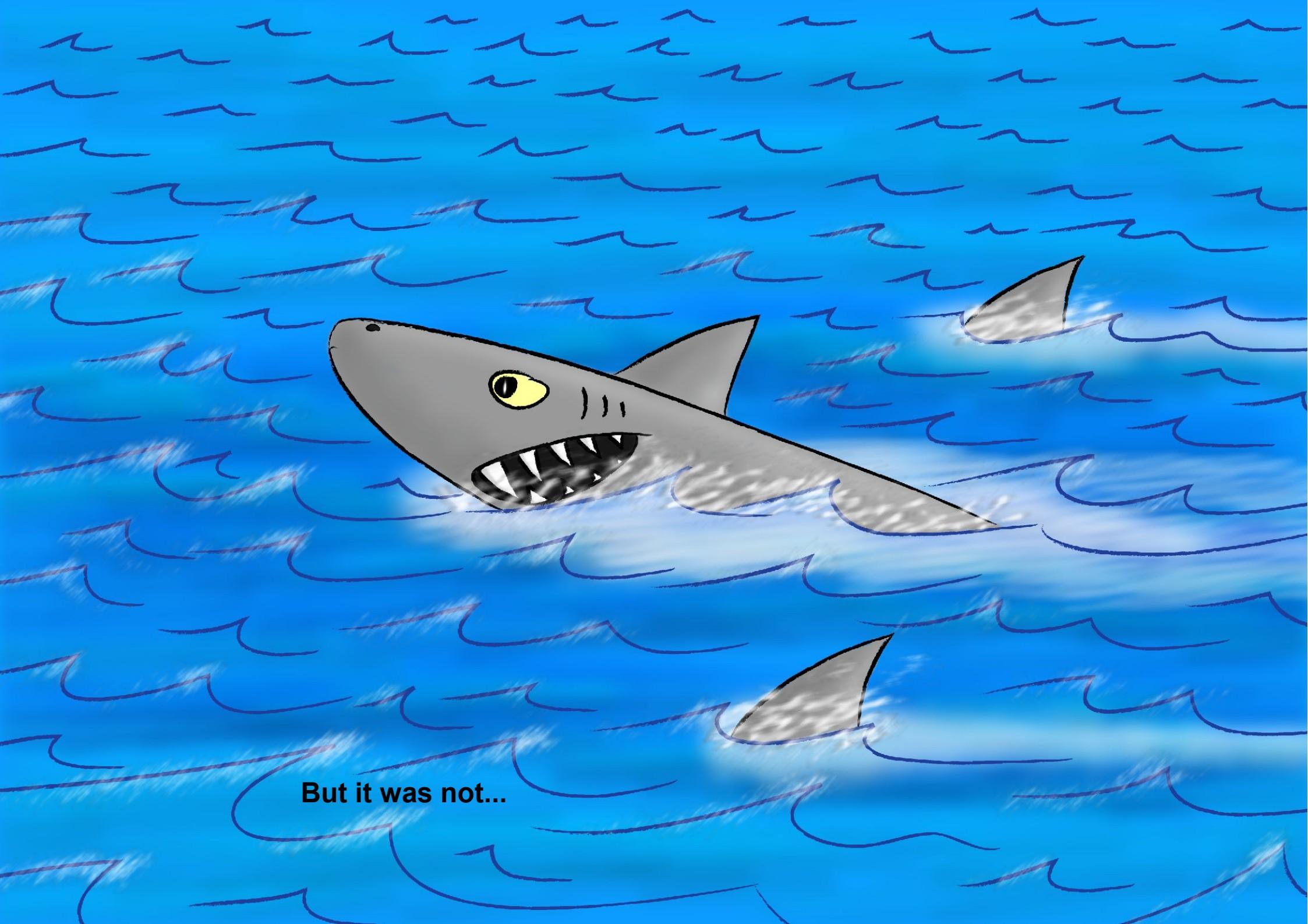
Bubu opened his eyes, spat out a gulp of sea water and looked around.

“What happened? Where am I?”

“The ship sank,” said Rico desperately. “All that is left is this piece of the mast. What will we do? We have no food, no water, in the middle of the sea...”

“Hey, see there!” jumped in Oskar filled with joy, “something is coming our way! We are saved! This is a ship.”





A large grey shark with a yellow eye and sharp white teeth swims towards the left. Three smaller shark fins are visible above the water surface, suggesting another shark is nearby. The background consists of blue wavy lines representing water.

But it was not...

The sharks surrounded them and started swimming in a circle rattling their teeth.

"Don't be scared," said Bubu trying not to shiver, "Rico, we need swords."

Rico clenched his teeth, broke off his longest and sharpest thorns and handed them out.

"We can't stop them with this..." said Oskar taking two thorns and shaking his head, "we are doomed."

One of the sharks smiled cunningly and dove.

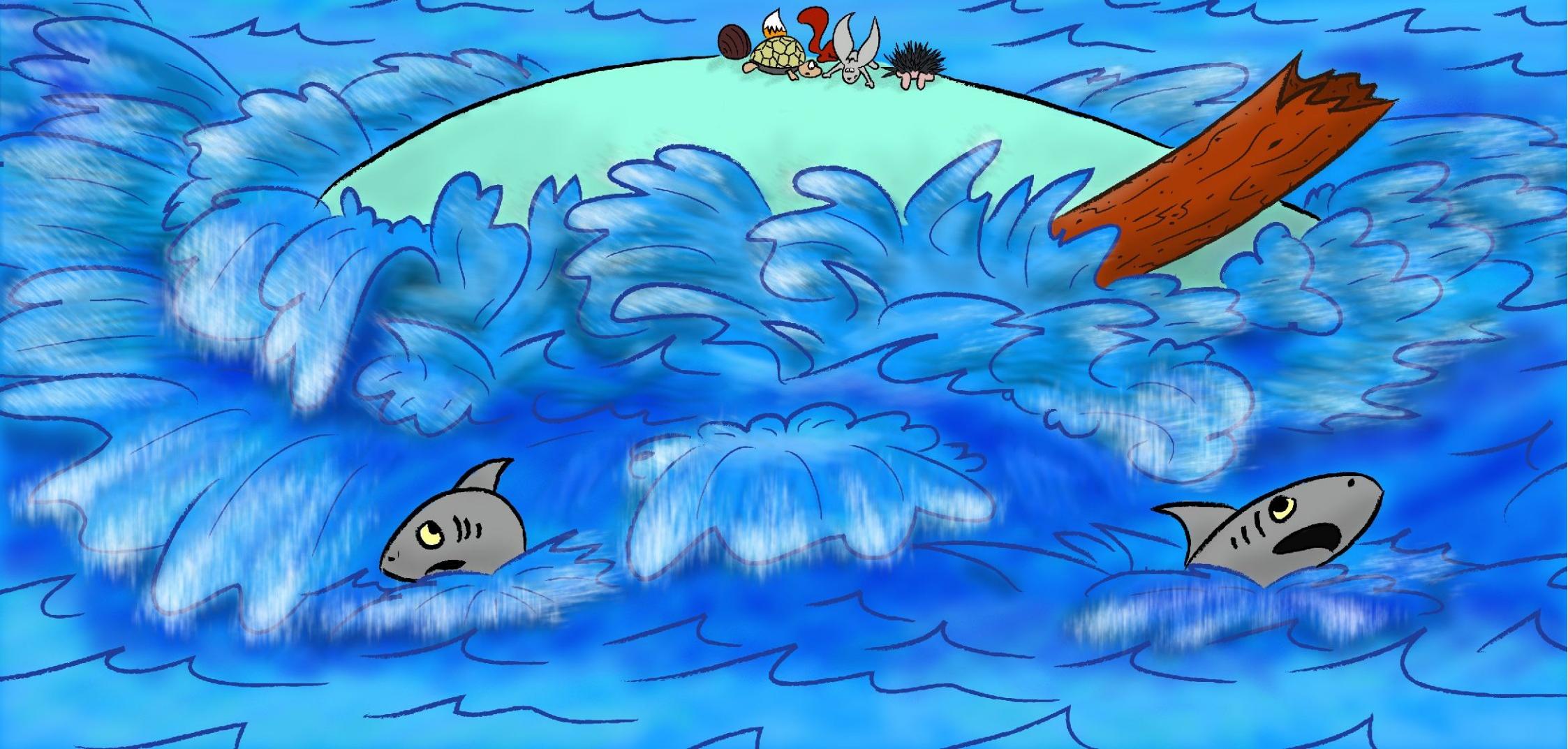
"She will attack us from below! Hold on!" cried Bubu.



The water around splashed and broke into foam. Something hit the mast with immense power and threw it away. Seems like the sea cracked and then a huge island emerged from the deep.

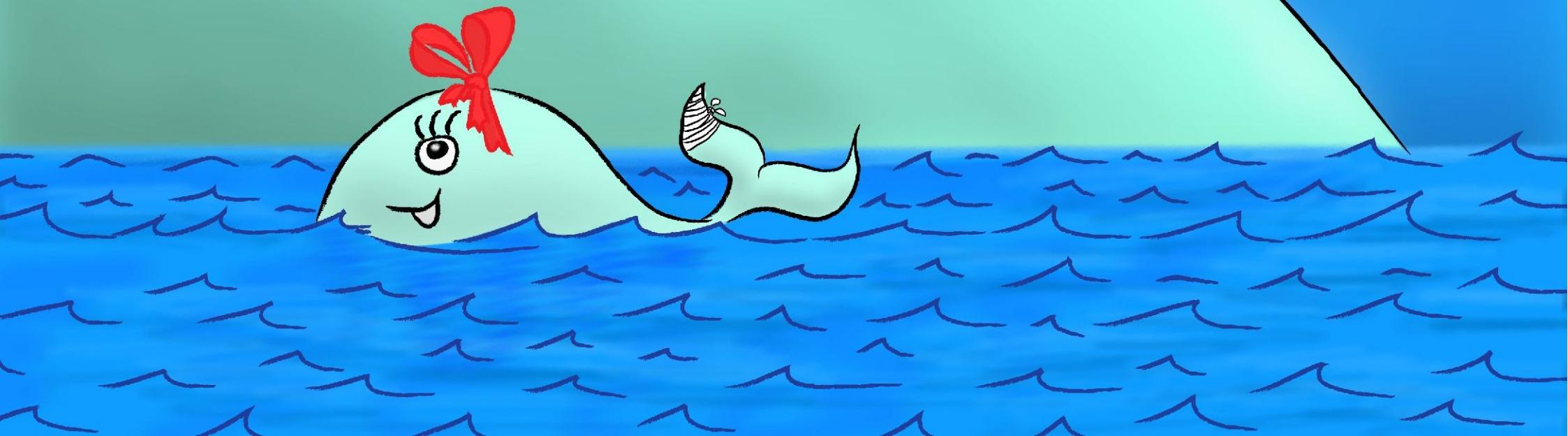
"What is happening? What is this?" cried Oskar terrified.

Whatever it was, it was scary for everyone – the sharks were swimming away as fast as they could.



"Hello boys!" said a familiar voice.

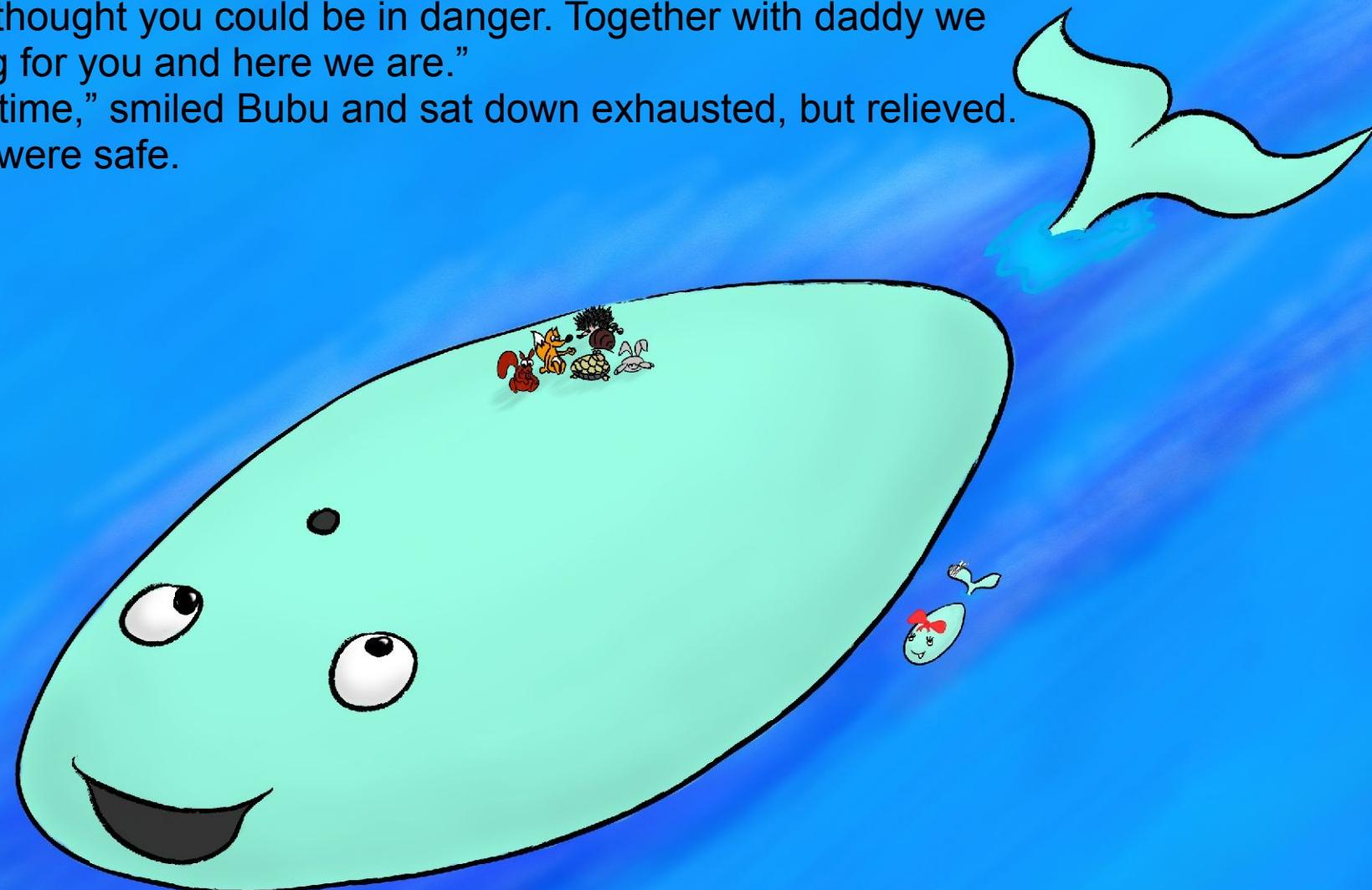
"Kittie?!?" exclaimed Bubu looking around surprised. "But how?!?
From where?!? But then..."



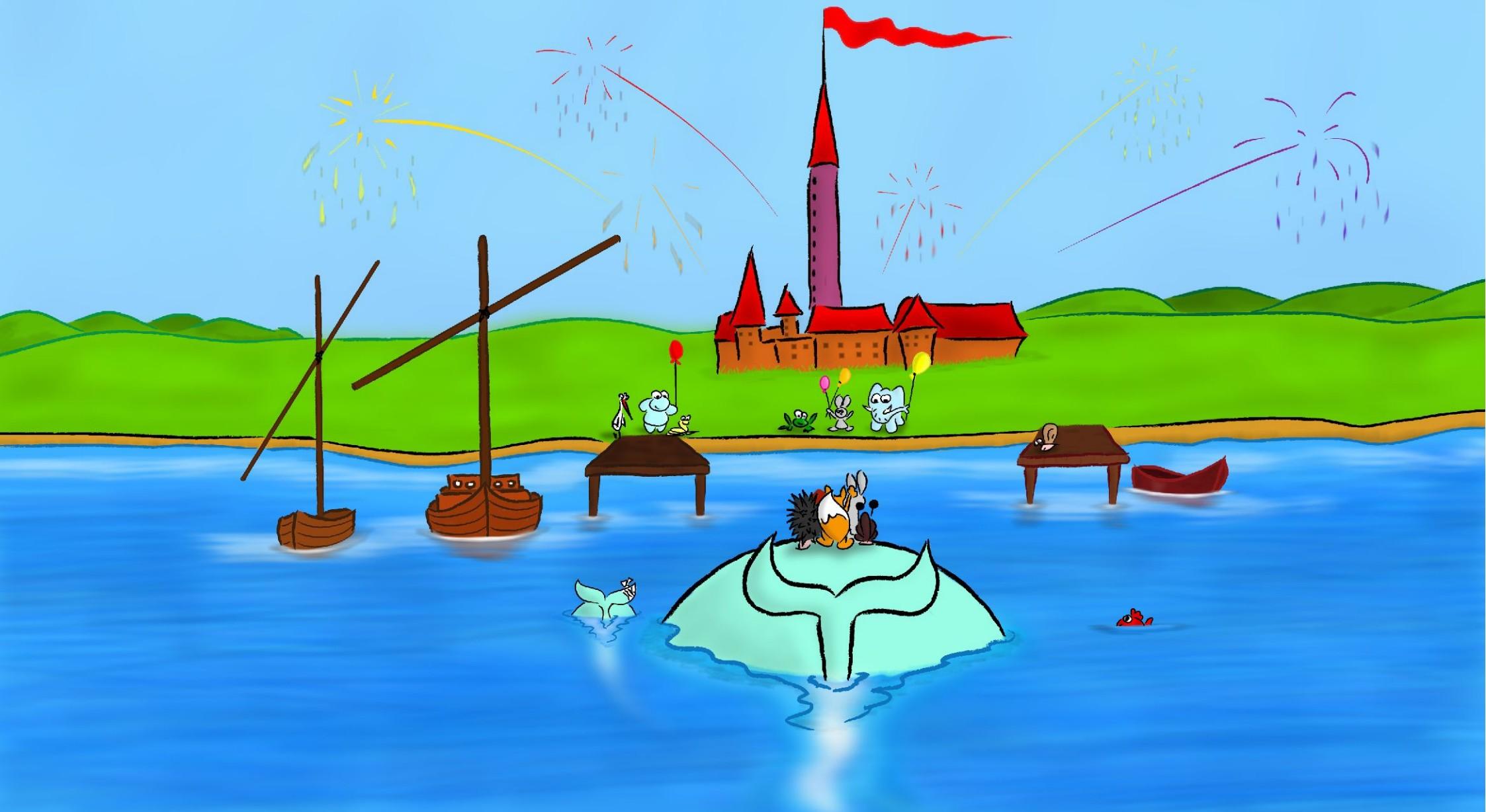
Bubu rubbed his eyes in disbelief. The island was not an island but a huge whale.

"Don't be scared," said Kittie, "this is daddy. When the storm started yesterday I thought you could be in danger. Together with daddy we went looking for you and here we are."

"And just in time," smiled Bubu and sat down exhausted, but relieved. At last they were safe.



When later on they entered the harbor, everybody went out to welcome them. They had to relate their adventures at least one hundred times and everybody wanted Kittie's father to take them a short ride.



In the evening Bubu, Oskar, Rico and Kittie gathered on the quay, ate biscuits and told each other stories about sea adventures.

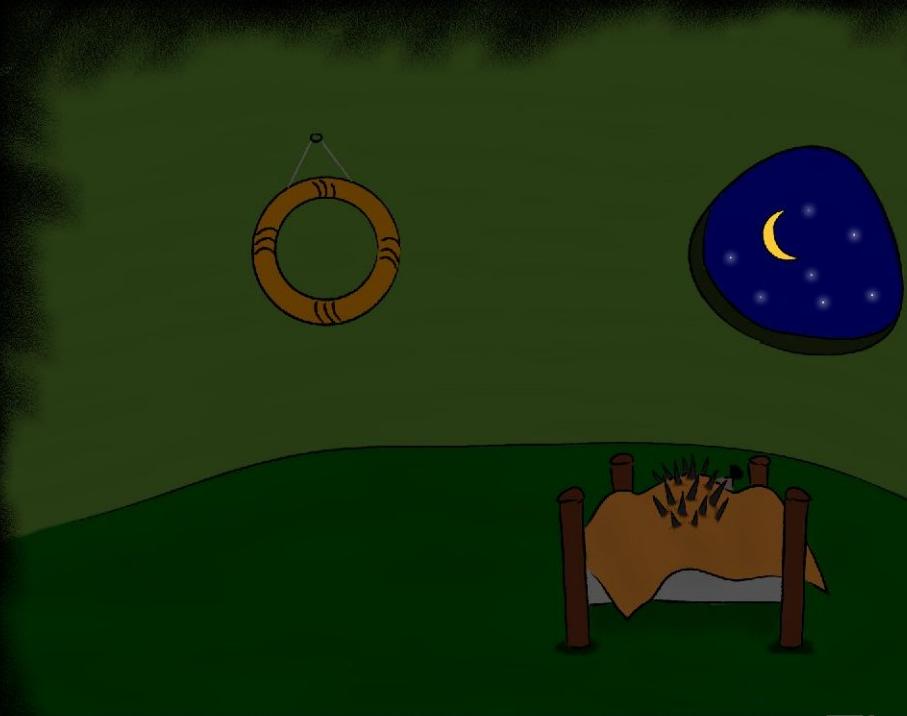
At the end it was really time to go to bed when Bubu had an idea.

"Do you want to go in search of a pirate treasure tomorrow?"

"Great idea!" exclaimed Oskar, Rico and Kittie as one.

"So...decided!" said Bubu. "Have a good sleep. Meet you on the quay at dawn..."





The End



Check for more illustrated stories and wallpapers at www.BubuTales.com

Don't miss Bubu and his adventures in "Hero of the Mountain" and "The Best Christmas Gift"

